



Lamar Alexander of Tennessee - Chairman

Improve Electronic Health Records

The Problem:

Over the last five years, taxpayers have spent over \$30 billion to encourage health care providers to adopt electronic health record (EHR) systems with the goal of improving patient care through better access to health information. Unfortunately, health care providers are overwhelmed with documentation burden, have a hard time sharing and receiving EHRs, and patients have trouble accessing their own health information.

The Solution:

The Senate health committee unanimously passed bipartisan legislation to:

- Convene stakeholders to develop a strategy for reducing regulatory and administrative burdens relating to EHRs so doctors can spend more time with their patients and less time on paperwork;
- Ensure doctors and hospitals have better information about the EHRs they purchase;
- Investigate and penalize instances of information blocking—or intentional interference with access to personal health information;
- Help improve interoperability—or the successful communication between EHR systems—by deferring to standards developed in the private sector;
- Clarify patient right of access and lawful sharing of patient health information according to HIPAA; and
- Study the best ways to ensure that the electronic health record a patient receives is their record and not someone else's.